Chapter 101: Breakthrough
WHAM
I AM YOUR MASTER...
...AND AN ENEMY THAT YOU MUST DEFEAT.
IF YOU WISH IT, I SHALL FULFILL THE ROLE OF YOUR ENEMY.
I AM MACHT OF THE GOLDEN LAND... ONE OF THE SEVEN SAGES OF DESTRUCTION OF THE DEMON KING'S ARMY.
HERE I COME.
HIS FIGHTING STYLE'S CHANGED COMPLETELY.
A WAVE OF ATTACKS USING A SHOWER OF SHARDS OF GOLD.
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A DIRECT HIT WILL OBLITERATE ME.
I CAN'T HIT HIM...
IT BARELY GRAZED ME, BUT THAT WAS ENOUGH TO BREAK MY DEFENSIVE SPELL.
THIS SURPASSES ANY OFFENSIVE MAGIC I KNOW OF.
WHAT ON EARTH WAS MACHT PLANNING TO FIGHT AGAINST THAT HE WOULD DEVOTE HIS LIFE TO IMPROVING HIS SKILLS THIS MUCH?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HE DID IT IN ANTICIPATION OF A MAGIC BATTLE IN THIS ERA.
AN APEX OF MAGIC THAT HUMANITY COULD NEVER REACH.
SO, THIS IS THE POWER OF THE SEVEN SAGES OF DESTRUCTION.
BUT I'M STILL ALIVE.
I CAN STILL FIGHT.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PREDICT HIS MOVES THROUGH MANA DETECTION.
AND ONCE HE'S ATTACKED, IT'S TOO LATE TO REACT.
CONCENTRATE.
DON'T MISS ANY PRELIMINARY MOVES.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO THAT.
FRIEREN BELIEVED IN ME ENOUGH TO LEAVE THIS FIGHT TO ME.
I AM GOING TO BRING DOWN MACHT RIGHT HERE, NO MATTER WHAT.
YOU TRULY DON'T KNOW WHEN TO GIVE UP, DO YOU?
YOU'RE TRYING TO KEEP YOUR DISTANCE FROM ME.
YOU'RE BUYING TIME, AREN'T YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU PLOTTING?
VOOSH
...
ZOLTRAAK!
HUMANS REALLY DO LIKE THIS SPELL, HUH?
IT'S A GREAT OFFENSIVE SPELL THAT'S EXTREMELY VERSATILE.
THE ONLY FLAW IS IT'S SO POLISHED AND BEAUTIFULLY DESIGNED...
...THAT EVEN HUMANS CAN UNDERSTAND AND USE IT.
AND NOW IT'S A STANDARD SPELL AMONG HUMANS.
NO SPELL KILLED MORE PEOPLE DURING THE WAR IN THE SOUTHERN LANDS.
QUAL, THE GREAT ELDER SAGE OF CORRUPTION...
...MUST BE DELIGHTED ABOUT THIS IN THE DEPTHS OF HELL.
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT QUAL IS DEAD?
I TOLD YOU I LIKE TO CHAT WITH PEOPLE, DIDN'T I?
MANY PEOPLE HAVE TOLD ME ABOUT IT.
AND PERHAPS SOME OF THEM YOU MIGHT HAVE KNOWN.
THERE SHE GOES AGAIN.
DEMONS TYPICALLY USE THEIR WORDS TO TAUNT THEIR OPPONENTS.
THEY TALK...
...AND WE ATTEMPT TO DECIPHER THEIR MEANING.
IT'S INFURIATING.
IT'S AN EFFECTIVE TACTIC BECAUSE IT'S SO PRIMITIVE.
ON TOP OF THAT, SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S DOING.
SHE CHOOSES HER WORDS CAREFULLY.
HOW MANY PEOPLE HAS SHE KILLED FOR THE PURPOSE OF HER "STUDIES"?
BY THE WAY, FRIEREN...
I'M SURE YOU'VE FIGURED OUT BY NOW THAT THIS ATTEMPT AT STALLING ISN'T GOING TO WORK.
IT IS TRUE THAT DEMONS ARE IGNORANT OF HUMANITY'S MAGIC, BUT...
...IT DOESN'T MEAN WE ARE SO UNINTELLIGENT THAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF "CURSES" CANNOT BE UNDERSTOOD.
AND ZOLTRAAK, THE SPELL THAT HAS BEEN ADOPTED INTO HUMANITY'S MAGIC SYSTEM, IS NO EXCEPTION.
IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH TIME TO ANALYZE...
...AND EVEN LESS TIME TO DEAL WITH.
YEP.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AT FIRST TOO, BUT...
...THAT WOUND ON YOUR SHOULDER...
...HAS BEEN ATTRACTING MY ATTENTION THIS WHOLE TIME.
AT LEAST, AS YOU CAN SEE...
...IT DOESN'T WORK ON ME.
VOOM
SO, HIGHLY CONCENTRATED ZOLTRAAK SHOULD DO IT, HUH?
THAT IS CORRECT, FRIEREN.
BUT I'VE SEEN THAT SPELL ALREADY.
BZZT
A SHIELD MADE OF HER MANA... I DIDN'T KNOW SHE HAD THAT KIND OF TRICK UP HER SLEEVE.
AND HER REACTION TIME IS EXTRA-ORDINARY.
BUT THE FACT THAT SHE HAD TO BLOCK IT MEANS THERE'S A CHANCE IT COULD BREAK THROUGH.
STILL, I NEED TO CATCH HER OFF GUARD.
AND I NEED TO BE FASTER.
IF ONLY FERN WERE HERE...
I KILLED THEM BOTH.
THERE IS NOTHING THAT LEADS ME TO THINK SHE'S LYING.
SOLITÄR IS THAT POWERFUL.
I KNOW HIMMEL THE HERO WOULD BELIEVE IN HIS COMRADES AND TRUST THAT THEY HAD HIS BACK UNTIL THE VERY END.
I SUPPOSE IT'S NOT SO BAD TO TAKE A GAMBLE LIKE THIS ONCE IN A WHILE.
BUT I HAVE NO TIME TO BE LOST IN THOUGHT ANYMORE.

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